

Howard County Consumer Protection Advisory Board Meeting Minutes November 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

- Present: Marshall McLeod, Young Smith, Richard Green; by phone – Jill Bussey, Ronnie Sanderson
- Absent: Katherine Bornstein

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as read.

FY2017 Annual Report - The Board voted to submit the final draft of the Annual Report to the County Executive and County Council.

Open Meetings Act Training – A revision to the MD Open Meetings Act now requires that at least one member of the Board receive training on the requirements of the Act. Ronnie Sanderson volunteered to take the training

2018 Student Loan Forum – Becky updated the Board on preparations for the January 17, 2018 event.

2018 National Consumer Protection Week event – Becky advised the Board that OCP will partner with the Howard County Library System and AARP for an event that will focus on Tax Prep Safety. The event will take place on March 3 from 10am to 3pm at the East Columbia Library branch and 50+ Center. The event will include:

- a presentation by OCP staff on choosing a tax preparer, the safe storage of tax records and avoiding Tax ID Theft
- document shredding in the parking lot (sponsored by AARP)
- either tax prep or scheduling for tax prep by AARP and/or Making Change's VITA program.
- Information tables / posters and publicity by the Library before the event;
- Information tables for sponsors during the event.

Becky advised the Board that the Library is also interested in partnering with OCP and other DCRS offices during the year, such as an event on Veteran benefits. The Board offered to assist OPC with this event.

Proposed Landlord-Tenant Legislation – Becky advised the Board that the latest draft of the legislation was submitted to Council person Sigaty on October 31 and that a meeting to discuss the draft will take place next week. Richard voiced his concern about the breadth of one provision that allows tenants to get out of their leases with 30-days-notice for certain reasons. Becky stated that provision can be adjusted according to the wishes of the Council during the legislative process.

Announcements and New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

The next meeting of the Consumer Protection Advisory Board will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 in the Office of Consumer Protection's conference room.